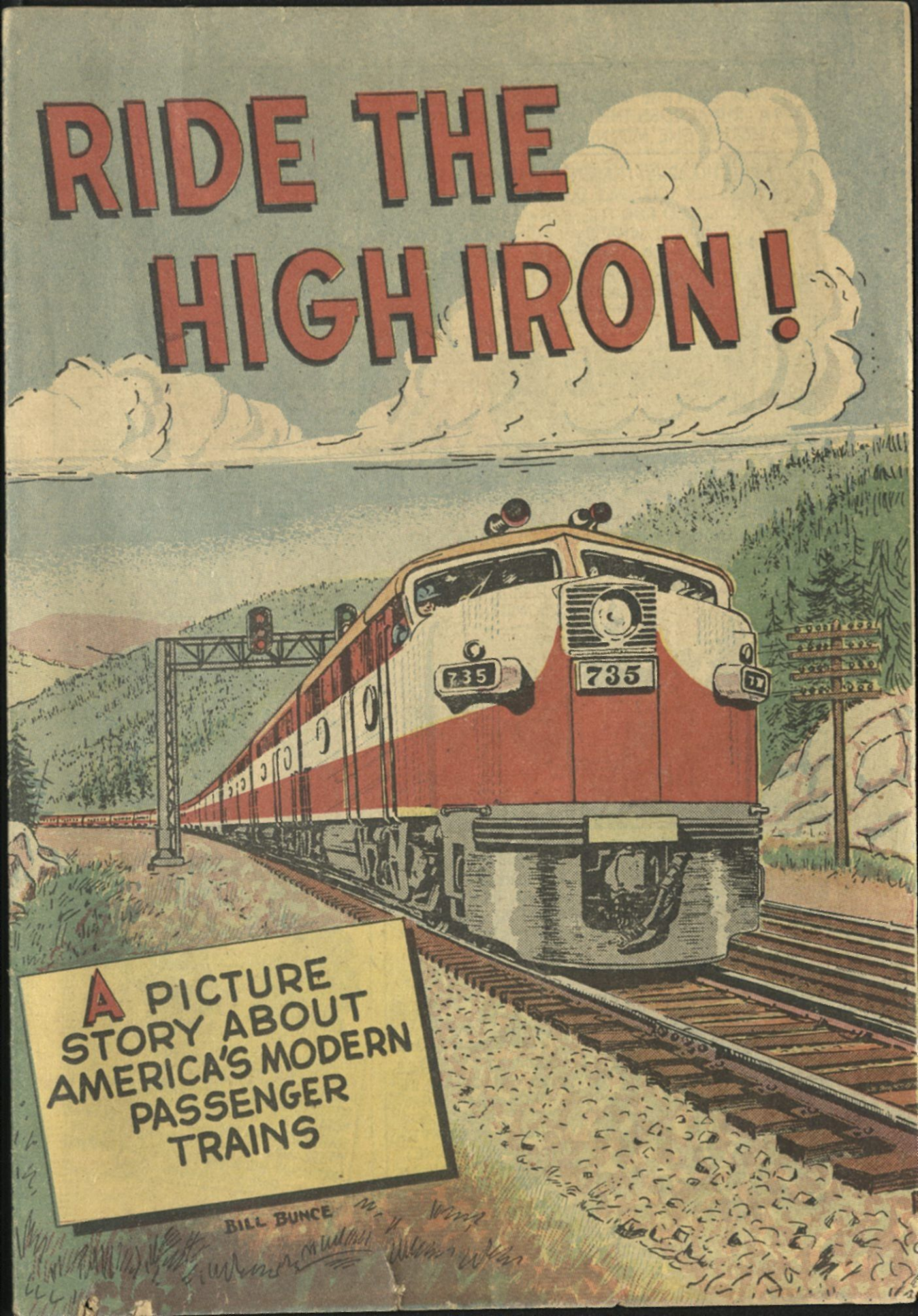
RIDE THE HIGH IRON!



A PICTURE STORY ABOUT AMERICA'S MODERN PASSENGER TRAINS

BILL BUNCE

IT IS VACATION TIME AND LARRY BROWN IS PREPARING FOR A TRIP ACROSS THE COUNTRY. AS HE LEAVES THE HOUSE ONE MORNING...

HI, LARRY! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE SCHOOL CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER. WHAT'S NEW?

HI, JOE. I'M GETTING READY TO TAKE A TRIP OUT TO MY UNCLE'S RANCH.

I'M GOING TO THE RAILROAD TICKET OFFICE NOW TO PICK UP MY TICKETS AND PULLMAN RESERVATIONS. I'M LEAVING TOMORROW.

BOY! THAT SOUNDS EXCITING. I'D LIKE TO SPEND A VACATION ON A REAL RANCH. HOW COME YOU'RE GOING BY TRAIN?

WELL, HALF THE FUN IS THE TRIP ITSELF. AND ON A TRAIN THERE'S ROOM TO EAT AND SLEEP AND WALK AROUND. MY DAD SAYS, IF YOU WANT TO SEE THE COUNTRY, THE BEST WAY IS BY TRAIN. AND THEY'RE FAST, TOO! YOU OUGHT TO RIDE A STREAMLINER SOMETIME.

MAYBE I WILL. SAY, WHY ARE YOU BUYING YOUR TICKET AHEAD OF TIME?

IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO MAKE RESERVATIONS IN ADVANCE. THAT'S WHAT MY DAD DOES.

MY NAME'S LARRY BROWN. MY FATHER PHONED YOU ABOUT SOME RESERVATIONS.

OH, YES, LARRY. WE HAVE YOUR RAILROAD AND PULLMAN TICKETS ALL READY FOR YOU. HERE THEY ARE.

AT A RAILROAD TICKET OFFICE, YOU CAN ALSO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT FARES, SCHEDULES, AND OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST TO TRAVELERS. THE TICKET AGENTS WILL HELP PLAN YOUR TRIP.

"YOU HAVE ROOMETTE 7, CAR 310, ON THE WESTERN LIMITED. YOUR TRAIN LEAVES TOMORROW AT 4 P.M. THE INFORMATION IS ALL MARKED ON THE ENVELOPE. HERE'S YOUR SCHEDULE FOR THE TRIP. YOU'RE GOING OUT BY A NORTHERN ROUTE AND COMING BACK BY A SOUTHERN ROUTE, SO YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO SEE A LOT OF THE COUNTRY. AND HERE'S THE ROUTE MAP AND SCENIC DESCRIPTION THAT WE GIVE OUR PASSENGERS."

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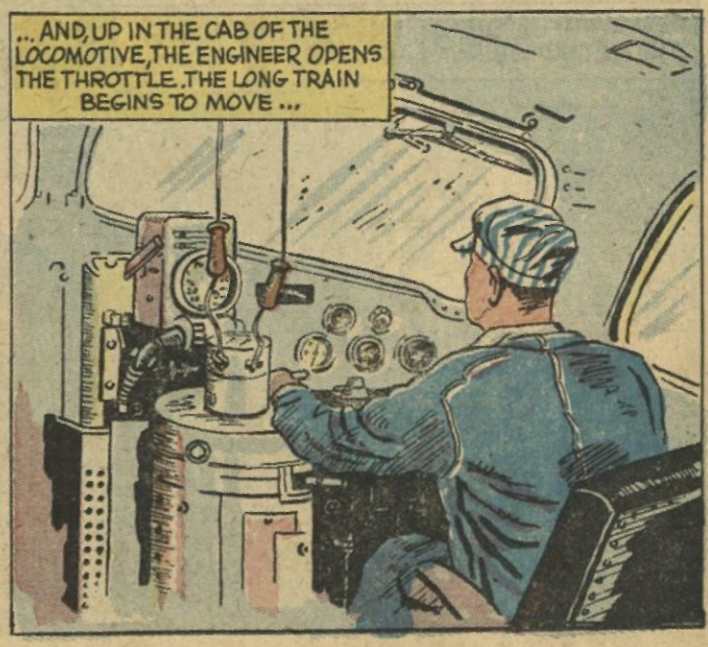
SAY, THAT'S NEAT-HAVING YOUR OWN PRIVATE ROOM ON A TRAIN! ARE THOSE "ROOMETTES" VERY EXPENSIVE? I'D LIKE TO RIDE IN ONE, SOMETIME.
THEY COST A LITTLE MORE THAN A LOWER BERTH, THAT'S ALL. AND THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING.

NEXT DAY, MR. BROWN TAKES LARRY TO THE RAILROAD STATION.
WELL, SON, WE'LL GO TO THE BAGGAGE ROOM FIRST AND CHECK YOUR BIG SUITCASE THROUGH SO YOU WON'T HAVE TO BOTHER WITH IT. YOU CAN KEEP THE SMALL BAG WITH YOU.
OKAY, DAD.

THERE'S YOUR CAR-310. YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET ABOARD. DROP US A LINE WHEN YOU GET TO UNCLE JIM'S. SO LONG, SON- HAVE A GOOD TIME.
GOOD BYE, DAD. I'M ALL SET FOR A SWELL TRIP. I'LL WRITE YOU AND MOM ALL ABOUT IT.
THE TRAIN IS ANNOUNCED OVER THE LOUD SPEAKER; LARRY AND HIS FATHER HURRY DOWN THE PLATFORM.

LARRY IS SHOWN TO HIS ROOMETTE BY THE PULLMAN PORTER. THE ROOMETTE IS FURNISHED WITH A WASHSTAND, TOILET, WARDROBE LOCKER, LUGGAGE RACK AND A BED THAT FOLDS INTO THE WALL. THERE IS INDIVIDUAL CONTROL FOR AIR CONDITIONING, HEAT, LIGHT, AND VENTILATION.

SOON, THE CONDUCTOR CALLS "ALL ABOARD!" HE RAISES HIS ARM, GIVING THE "HIGH BALL" SIGNAL...


... AND, UP IN THE CAB OF THE LOCOMOTIVE, THE ENGINEER OPENS THE THROTTLE. THE LONG TRAIN BEGINS TO MOVE ...

...GATHERING SPEED AS IT THREADS ITS WAY THROUGH TERMINAL SWITCHES ONTO THE MAIN-LINE TRACK (*RAILROADERS CALL IT THE "HIGH IRON"*). THE SIGNALS AHEAD FLASH GREEN–CLEAR TRACK!

CLEAR BOARD!

CLEAR BOARD!

AS THE TRAIN ROUNDS A CURVE, LARRY SEES THE CARS AHEAD–DINER, COACHES, BAGGAGE, MAIL, AND EXPRESS CARS.

WELL, I'M ON MY WAY. THE TRIP IS GOING TO BE FUN.

SOON, THE CONDUCTOR COMES THROUGH THE TRAIN. HE TAKES THE TICKET FOR THE FIRST PART OF LARRY'S JOURNEY. THE PULLMAN CONDUCTOR TAKES THE PULLMAN TICKET.

POWERFUL DIESEL ENGINES THROBBING, THE LOCOMOTIVE PICKS UP MORE SPEED...

...AND THE TRAIN FLASHES THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE, EATING UP THE MILES.

WE HAVE A GOOD VIEW THROUGH THESE WIDE WINDOWS.

LOOK AHEAD! THERE COMES A BIG LONG FREIGHT TRAIN.

THEY GLIDE BY A LONG, RUMBLING FREIGHT. CREWMEN ON EACH TRAIN CHECK THE OTHER TRAIN AS IT ROLLS BY—A SAFETY MEASURE OF LONG STANDING...

...THE REAR BRAKEMAN ON THE PASSENGER TRAIN GIVES THE "ALL OK" SIGNAL WHICH IS ACKNOWLEDGED BY THE MEN IN THE FREIGHT CABOOSE.

MEANWHILE, THE CONDUCTOR, AS BOSS OF THE TRAIN, PASSES ON SOME INFORMATION TO HIS ENGINEER, COMMUNICATING WITH THE ENGINE CAB BY A TRAIN TELEPHONE...

...WHICH ON SOME PASSENGER TRAINS SUPPLEMENTS THE REGULAR BELLCORD SIGNALS FOR COMMUNICATION BETWEEN CONDUCTOR AND ENGINEER. ALONG THE ROUTE, POINTS OF SCENIC AND HISTORIC INTEREST ARE ANNOUNCED OVER THE TRAIN LOUD SPEAKER. WITH SO MUCH TO WATCH, THE AFTERNOON PASSES SWIFTLY FOR LARRY. THEN COMES THE FIRST CALL FOR DINNER.

DINNER IS NOW BEING SERVED!

THAT'S FOR ME! I'M HUNGRY!

FINE FOOD, WELL SERVED, A RELAXING ATMOSPHERE, AND WIDE WINDOW VIEWS MAKE DINING CAR MEALS AN ENJOYABLE FEATURE OF ANY TRAIN TRIP.

AS LARRY IS STARTING ON HIS DESSERT-PIE AND ICE CREAM-THE TRAIN PULLS INTO A STATION. THERE IS A BUSTLE OF ACTIVITY-PEOPLE LEAVE AND BOARD THE TRAIN. CAR INSPECTORS WALK THE LENGTH OF THE TRAIN, EXAMINING EVERY CAR.

WESTERN LIMITED-ALL ABOARD!

"HEADEND TRAFFIC"-BAGGAGE, MAIL, AND EXPRESS- IS UNLOADED OR LOADED...

...AND IN A VERY FEW MINUTES THE TRAIN IS AGAIN ROLLING ON THE HIGH IRON.

AFTER DINNER, LARRY TAKES A WALK THROUGH THE TRAIN. AHEAD OF THE DINER (WHICH IS USUALLY NEAR THE MIDDLE OF THE TRAIN) ARE THE COACHES. WIDE WINDOWS, RESTFUL RECLINING SEATS, AND INDIVIDUAL LIGHTS ARE FEATURES OF THE MODERN PASSENGER COACH.

IT IS GROWING DARK OUTSIDE AS LARRY WALKS BACK THROUGH THE PULLMAN CARS. IN THE OPEN SECTION PULLMANS, THE PORTERS ARE MAKING UP THE BERTHS FOR THE NIGHT. THE "SECTION" IS THE COMBINATION OF THE UPPER AND LOWER BERTHS. IN ROOMETTE CARS, SUCH AS LARRY'S, THE BEDS ARE PRE-MADE—ALL READY TO GET INTO. OTHER PULLMAN ACCOMMODATIONS INCLUDE...

A COMPARTMENT

COMPARTMENTS HAVE AMPLE ROOM TO SEAT FOUR PASSENGERS COMFORTABLY. AT NIGHT, THERE IS A COMFORTABLE BED AND UPPER BERTH. DURING THE DAY, OCCUPANTS HAVE A SOFA AND ALSO AN EASY CHAIR. EACH ROOM HAS LUGGAGE SPACE, COMPLETE TOILET FACILITIES, AND CLOTHES LOCKER.

A DOUBLE BEDROOM

EACH DOUBLE BEDROOM HAS TWO BEDS. THE LOWER BED IS OF THE FOLDING, PRE-MADE TYPE. THE UPPER BERTH, WHICH IS STORED IN THE CEILING DURING THE DAY, IS OPERATED BY THE PORTER. CONVENIENCES INCLUDE WARDROBE LOCKER, FULL-LENGTH MIRROR, READING LIGHTS, HEAT CONTROL, AND CIRCULATING WATER.

A BEDROOM SUITE

A BEDROOM SUITE IS AN ENCLOSED PRIVATE ROOM, AND CONTAINS A WIDE, COMFORTABLE SOFA, WHICH AT NIGHT IS MADE INTO A BED. FOLDING PARTITIONS PERMIT THE ROOMS TO BE KEPT AS INDIVIDUAL UNITS, OR OPENED TO MAKE ONE LARGE ROOM. FAMILY GROUPS FIND THIS A CONVENIENT AND COMFORTABLE WAY TO TRAVEL.

LARRY REACHES THE LAST CAR ON THE TRAIN—AN OBSERVATION LOUNGE CAR. THIS "LIVING-ROOM" OF THE TRAIN IS FITTED WITH SOFT CARPETS, COMFORTABLE CHAIRS, SOFAS, WRITING TABLES, AND A BAY OF WINDOWS THROUGH WHICH ONE CAN WATCH THE SCENERY UNROLL.

ALL THIS NEW EQUIPMENT MUST COST THE RAILROADS A LOT OF MONEY. WHO PAYS FOR IT?
THE RAILROADS DO, OF COURSE. THEY PAY FOR ALL THE COSTS OF UPKEEP AND OPERATION.

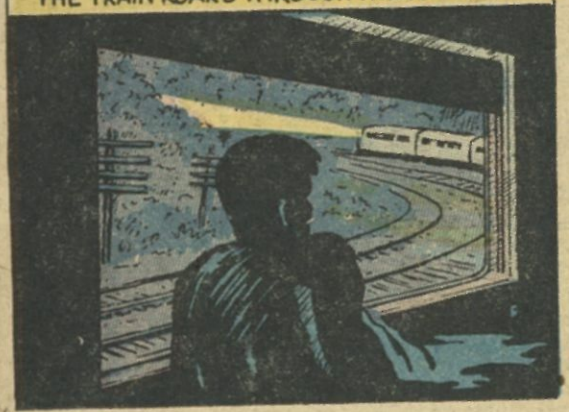
LARRY CHATS WITH THE TRAINMAN WHO TELLS HIM ABOUT THE NEW TYPES OF CARS AND LOCOMOTIVES BEING PUT INTO SERVICE BY THE RAILROADS.

RETURNING TO HIS ROOMETTE, LARRY FINDS IT ALL READY FOR NIGHT OCCUPANCY. HE NOTES THE MANY CONVENIENCES—VENTILATION, AIR-CONDITIONING, HEAT AND LIGHT, TOILET FACILITIES, AND THE BOX FROM WHICH THE PORTER CAN PICK UP SHOES FOR SHINING.

WHEN YOU WANT TO RAISE THE BED IN THE MORNING, JUST RELEASE THE LOCK AT THE FOOT AND THE BED WILL FOLD RIGHT BACK INTO THE WALL.

OKAY. PLEASE CALL ME AT SEVEN—IN TIME FOR BREAKFAST.

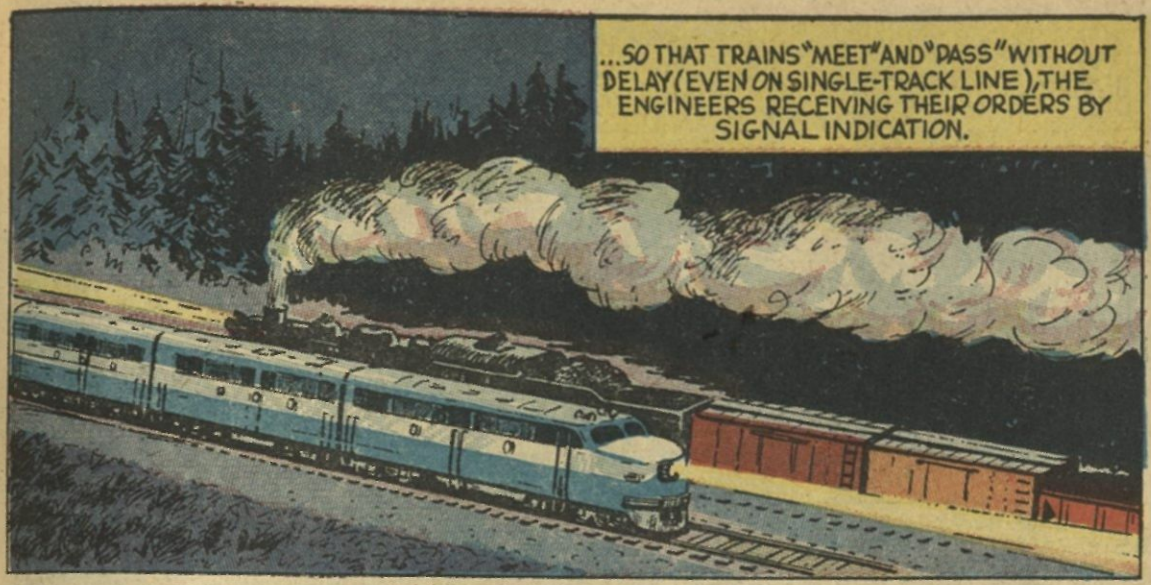
LARRY GETS READY FOR BED, THEN WATCHES THE MOONLIT SCENE SLIDE BY HIS DARKENED WINDOW. THE TRAIN ROARS THROUGH THE NIGHT...

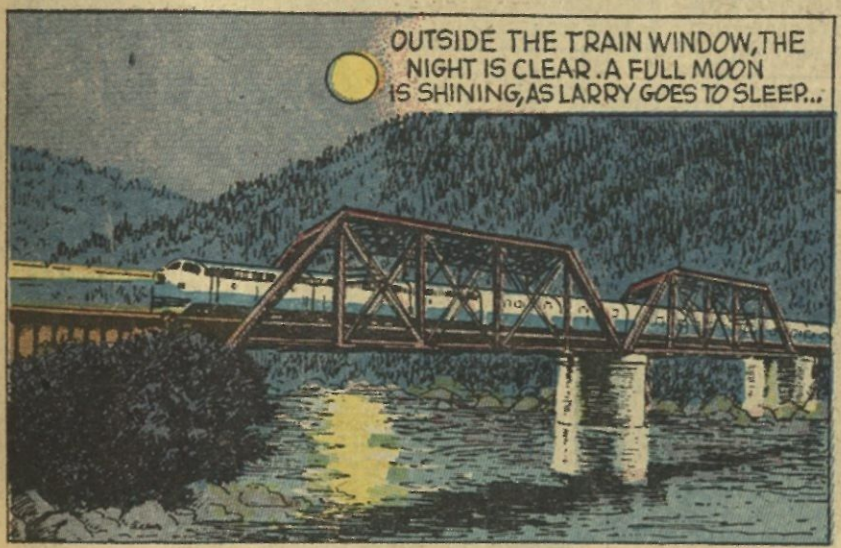


...LIGHTS GLEAM IN LITTLE STATIONS...

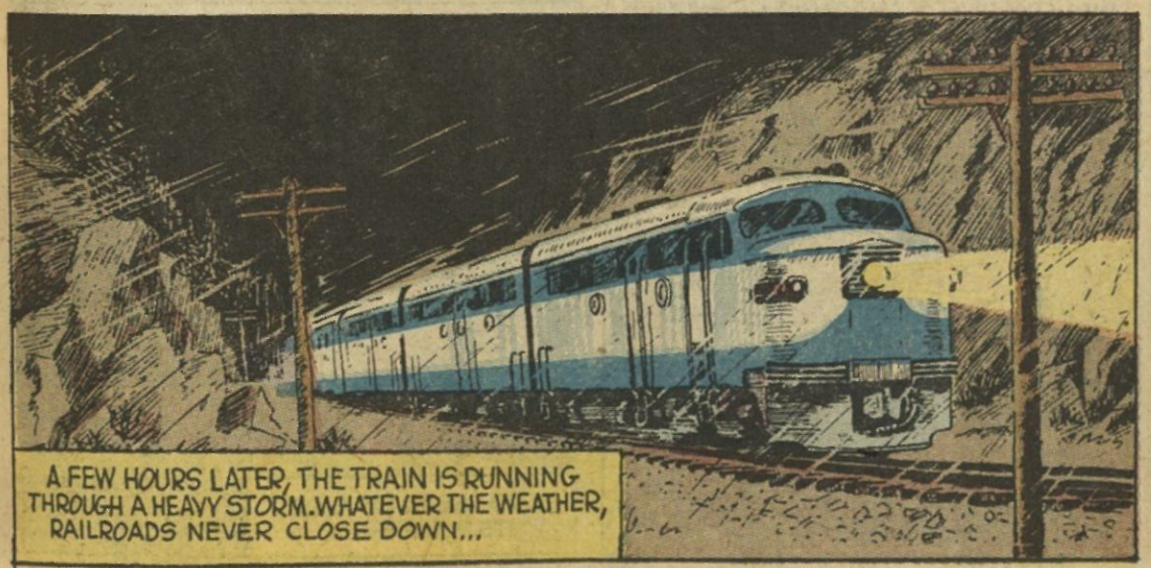
...AND SIGNALS FLASH THEIR MESSAGES...

...AS AN OPERATOR OF A CENTRALIZED TRAFFIC CONTROL MACHINE MANY MILES AWAY SETS UP THE PATTERN OF TRAFFIC. LIGHTS ON THE "CTC" BOARD SHOW THE POSITION OF EVERY TRAIN IN HIS TERRITORY. PUSHBUTTONS AND LITTLE LEVERS SET SWITCHES AND CONTROL SIGNALS...

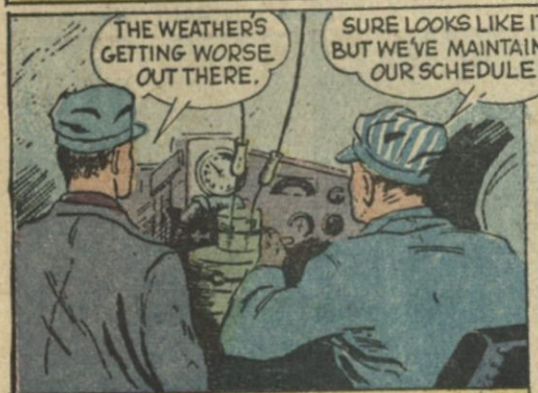

...SO THAT TRAINS "MEET" AND "PASS" WITHOUT DELAY (EVEN ON SINGLE-TRACK LINE), THE ENGINEERS RECEIVING THEIR ORDERS BY SIGNAL INDICATION.


OUTSIDE THE TRAIN WINDOW, THE NIGHT IS CLEAR. A FULL MOON IS SHINING, AS LARRY GOES TO SLEEP...

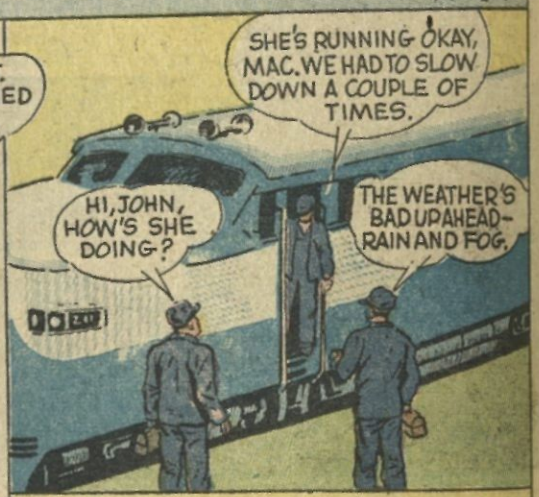
...BUT UP AHEAD THE WEATHER IS CHANGING.


A FEW HOURS LATER, THE TRAIN IS RUNNING THROUGH A HEAVY STORM. WHATEVER THE WEATHER, RAILROADS NEVER CLOSE DOWN...

...THEY RUN 24 HOURS A DAY, EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR. LARRY BECOMES AWARE OF THIS AS HE AWAKENS BEFORE DAWN. OUTSIDE ARE MILES OF YARD TRACKS WHERE SWITCH ENGINES ARE SHIFTING CARS IN THE GLARE OF FLOODLIGHTS, AS LARRY'S TRAIN APPROACHES A TERMINAL.



IN THE LOCOMOTIVE CAB, ENGINEER AND FIREMAN WATCH THE TRACK AHEAD AS THE TRAIN GLIDES INTO CROSSOVERS AND THROUGH SWITCHES MARKED BY SIGNAL LIGHTS...



...AND COMES TO A HALT IN THE STATION. A NEW CREW TAKES OVER.

THERE IS THE USUAL SAFETY INSPECTION; THE CONDUCTOR AND ENGINEER COMPARE WATCHES...

...AND THE TRAIN IS ON ITS WAY AGAIN.

BEFORE DAYBREAK, THE COOKS BEGIN TO PREPARE BREAKFAST IN THE DINING CAR KITCHEN.
GRAY SKY OVERHEAD AND RAIN PELTING ON THE WINDOWS EMPHASIZE THE PLEASANT ATMOSPHERE INSIDE, AS LARRY EATS BREAKFAST. AFTER BREAKFAST, HE WALKS THROUGH THE CARS. ROOMS AND BERTHS HAVE BEEN QUICKLY TRANSFORMED TO DAY USE. THE TRAIN ROLLS ON.
I'M GLAD WE TOOK THE TRAIN INSTEAD OF DRIVING LAST NIGHT. THIS WAY I FEEL COMFORTABLE AND SAFE.
LOOK! THERE'S THE ENGINE! IT'S GOING AROUND A CURVE.
I CAN RELAX ON A TRAIN. AND THAT "FAMILY FARE PLAN" CUT OUR COSTS ON THE ROUND TRIP - MADE IT A REAL BARGAIN.
THE PASSENGERS RELAX COMFORTABLY AFTER BREAKFAST. OUTSIDE THE STORM CONTINUES.
THIS IS A REAL LONG TRAIN! HAVE MORE CARS BEEN ADDED?
YES, WE PICKED UP TWO CARS LAST NIGHT. QUITE A LOT OF PEOPLE MAKE THIS OVERNIGHT TRIP, ESPECIALLY IN BAD WEATHER.
LARRY WALKS BACK TO THE OBSERVATION LOUNGE WHERE HE IS GREETED WITH A FRIENDLY "GOOD MORNING" FROM THE TRAINMAN.
I CAN SEE WHY! LOOK AT THAT TRAFFIC JAM OUT THERE!
AND IT GETS WORSE ALL THE WAY IN.

THE WEATHER CLEARS AND, BY MID-MORNING, THE BIG TERMINAL IS REACHED. HERE, LARRY HAS TIME TO LOOK AROUND THE STATION, MAIL POSTCARDS, AND BUY MAGAZINES.

SOON, ANOTHER LONG STREAMLINER IS GLIDING OUT OF THE TERMINAL...

...AND ACROSS THE PRAIRIES. THIS IS NEW SCENERY TO LARRY.

YOU CAN SEE IN EVERY DIRECTION UP HERE.

I'LL SAY. LOOK AT THOSE BIG JACK-RABBITS OUT THERE!

JOINED BY A BOY OF HIS OWN AGE, HE GOES UP IN A DOME CAR FOR A ROOF-TOP VIEW. THE TRAIN SPEEDS THROUGH LEVEL FARMLANDS...

...ROARING PAST VILLAGES WITHOUT STOPPING...

...BUT MAKING MAIL "PICK-UPS" WITHOUT LOSING A MOMENT'S TIME. AS THE RAILWAY POST OFFICE CAR FLASHES BY...

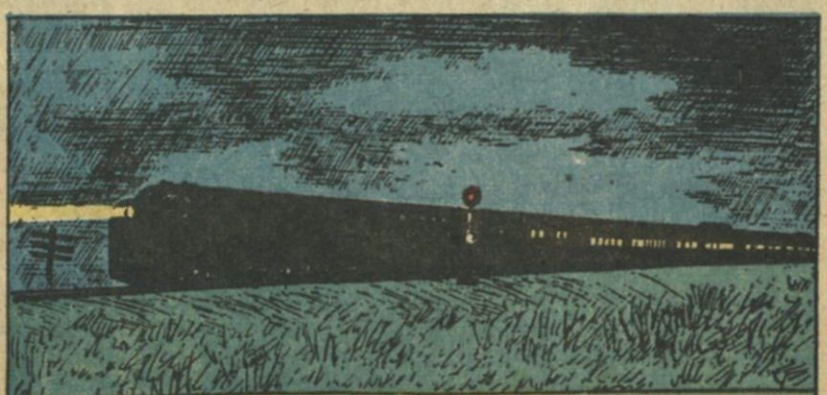
...A METAL "CATCHER" ARM SWINGS OUT FROM THE CAR DOOR AND NEATLY GRABS A MAIL BAG SUSPENDED FROM A TRACK-SIDE CRANE. THIS AUTOMATIC PICK-UP IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY WAYS IN WHICH FAST TRAINS SPEED THE DELIVERY OF U.S. MAIL.

THE RAILROADS CARRY A LOT OF MAIL, DON'T THEY?
THEY CARRY MOST OF IT, SON—AN AVERAGE OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED MILLION PIECES OF MAIL A DAY, AND, IF YOU COUNT JUST FIRST-CLASS MAIL, RAILROADS CARRY ABOUT 4/5 OF ALL INTERCITY MAIL.

IN DOING THIS BIG JOB, THE RAILROADS USE ROADWAY AND EQUIPMENT WHICH THEY PROVIDE AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. THEY DO NOT HAVE FACILITIES BUILT FOR THEM AT THE TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE, AS DO COMPETING FORMS OF TRANSPORTATION.

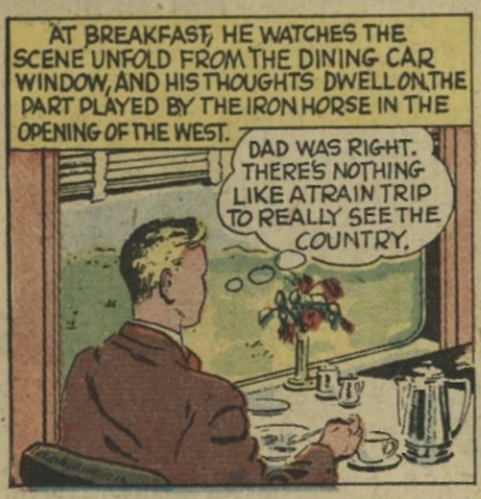
THEY ARE PASSING A WORK TRAIN. "TAKE A LOOK OUT THE WINDOW," THE CONDUCTOR SAYS.

"SEE THAT TRACK-LAYING JOB OUT THERE? WE'RE PUTTING IN NEW AND HEAVIER RAIL. THAT KIND OF WORK GOES ON ALL THE TIME AND THE RAILROADS PAY FOR IT THEMSELVES. THEY PAY THEIR OWN WAY—JUST REMEMBER THAT."

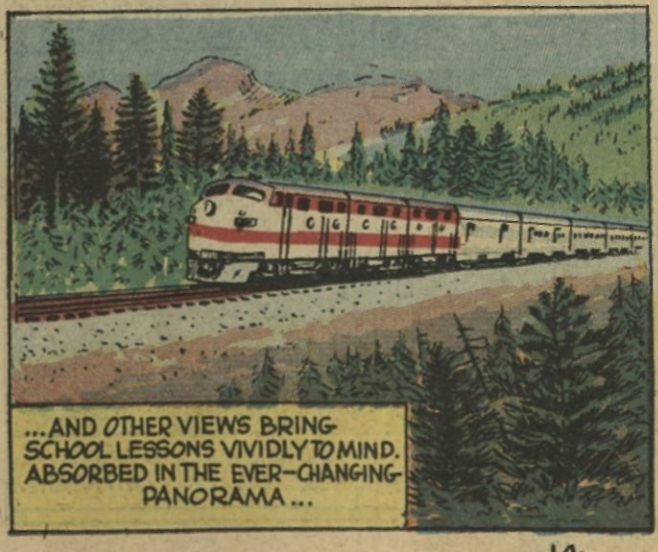


TIME PASSES SWIFTLY FOR LARRY, WITH SO MUCH TO WATCH AND SO MANY SENSATIONS TO ABSORB. SOON, IT IS NIGHT AGAIN.

NEXT MORNING, LARRY LOOKS OUT AT NEW AND EXCITING SCENERY-A PANORAMA OF ROLLING PLAINS AND HIGH BUTTES AND ENDLESS RAILS STRETCHING INTO THE DISTANCE. COYOTES ARE WITHIN SIGHT FROM THE TRAIN WINDOW.
OH, BOY! I'M REALLY OUT WEST, NOW!


AT BREAKFAST, HE WATCHES THE SCENE UNFOLD FROM THE DINING CAR WINDOW, AND HIS THOUGHTS DWELL ON THE PART PLAYED BY THE IRON HORSE IN THE OPENING OF THE WEST.
DAD WAS RIGHT. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE A TRAIN TRIP TO REALLY SEE THE COUNTRY.

THE TRAIN WINDS ALONG A RIVER FAMOUS IN HISTORY. THIS...


...AND OTHER VIEWS BRING SCHOOL LESSONS VIVIDLY TO MIND. ABSORBED IN THE EVER-CHANGING PANORAMA...

...LARRY SETTLES DOWN AT HIS WINDOW. THERE ARE VIEWS OF WIDE GRASSLANDS...

...CATTLE ON THE RANGE AND REAL COWBOYS AT WORK. AND GOING OVER THE FAR HORIZON ARE THE STEEL RAILS THAT BUILT THE LAND.

"THE BASIS OF RAILROAD OPERATION IS THE TRACK AND ROADBED BENEATH IT. THIS IS ROUGH COUNTRY, BUT JUST NOTICE HOW SMOOTHLY THE TRAIN RIDES, HOW EASILY SHE TAKES THE CURVES."

IT IS IN MOUNTAINOUS SECTIONS THAT ROADBED AND TRACK TAKE THE TOUGHEST BEATING UNDER EVERY EXTREME OF WEATHER. THAT IS WHY RAILROADS SPEND SO MUCH MONEY ON TRACK CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.

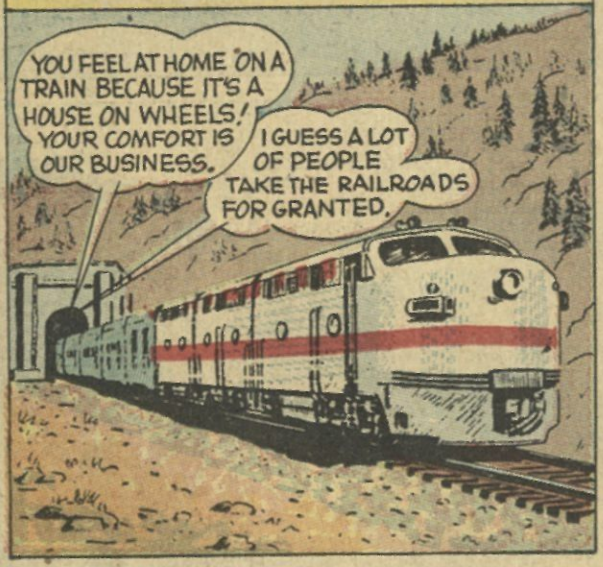
LARRY BECOMES ACQUAINTED WITH A GIRL OF HIS OWN AGE, AND IS INVITED TO JOIN HER AND HER MOTHER FOR LUNCH IN THE COUNTER CAR.

WELL, SON, YOU'LL SOON REACH YOUR DESTINATION. HAVE YOU ENJOYED YOUR TRIP?

I SURE HAVE, CONDUCTOR. YOU'VE MADE ME FEEL RIGHT AT HOME.

PASSENGER TRAINS HAVE COME A LONG WAY SINCE THEIR BEGINNINGS OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO. AND WHILE THE ROMANCE OF RAILROADING IS STILL THE SAME, THROUGHOUT THEIR LONG HISTORY...

...RAILROADS HAVE STEADILY IMPROVED THEIR SERVICES. RAILROAD PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS SEARCHING FOR WAYS TO MAKE THE RAILROADS EVEN BETTER.


YOU FEEL AT HOME ON A TRAIN BECAUSE IT'S A HOUSE ON WHEELS! YOUR COMFORT IS OUR BUSINESS.
I GUESS A LOT OF PEOPLE TAKE THE RAILROADS FOR GRANTED.

THAT'S RIGHT. THE WORK GOES ON SO STEADILY THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T REALIZE IT. MODERN POWER, NEW METALS, NEW MACHINES, ELECTRONICS, BETTER WAYS OF DOING JOBS—ALL THESE THINGS ARE WORKING FOR THE RAILROADS EVERY DAY.

SOME OF THE THINGS LARRY LEARNED ABOUT RAILROAD PASSENGER SERVICE:

RAILROADS HAVE A LONG RECORD OF STEADY IMPROVEMENT.

THERE ARE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR DAY AND NIGHT TRAVEL TO SUIT EVERY TASTE AND POCKETBOOK.

MODERN PASSENGER TRAINS ASSURE YOU A FAST, COMFORTABLE, AND SAFE JOURNEY. (YOU ARE SAFER TRAVELING BY TRAIN THAN BY ANY OTHER MODE OF TRANSPORTATION.)

RAILROADS ARE PRIVATE ENTERPRISE. THEY PAY THEIR OWN WAY.

AMERICA'S GREAT NEW STREAMLINED TRAINS ARE ROLLING ON THE HIGH IRON TODAY.

1-57-2000M-G. B. P.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE SERVICE

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

TRANSPORTATION BUILDING, WASHINGTON 6, D. C.